

ATTACHMENT D- to Land Use Committee Report
County Service District

To close the gap between rural citizen demands and county resources, Montana counties need a flexible and comprehensive revenue and service mechanism. A mechanism that will determine what residents want, what they are willing to pay, and then provide the desired level of service.

The mechanism, hereafter called a County Service District (CSD) should be able to provide resources for infrastructure improvement and all public services to include public safety, senior services and health services.

The CSD should not preclude other funding methods such as Rural Special Improvement Districts or impact fees. But provide a comprehensive means to manage all public infrastructure and services. It is critical that any revenue mechanism provide a balance between what citizens pay and what benefit they receive. Each district voter should know what their assessments are being used for and how the benefits accrue to them. Everyone has a “fair share” of the costs and a “fair share” of the benefits.

Characteristics of state statute enabling County Service Districts are:

- Provide county commissions with the authority to form CSD's within their county. A CSD could include all or part of incorporated cities with the agreement of the respective city council.
- A CSD is a precisely described geographic area. It could all or a part of a county.
- The initiation of a CSD would include a detailed description of the present level of service, the desired level of service and the assessment cost to each household in the CSD.
- A CSD would be formed if 51% of the voters in the CSD voted in favor of the formation.
- County commissioners could administer the CSD themselves with county staff or appoint a CSD board to administer the district.
- Level of services, assessments would be reviewed at least every 5 years. Changes would be sent to the voters of the district for ratification.